

(You like it like that) The world was good at first, and as for me I know, what I know, my mind shows that the Bible has said that it is not true and at times hard times may come (Please, all right, please, say all in Asante, please, begin again for me to listen) Don't you hear? (yes) Formerly, I know that, for me, my mind shows me that, (yes) the Bible said that when the world is coming to an end, life will be difficult (Is that so?) Therefore I know that, that time has come. When you first came and you and I used to play about four years ago. When you first came about four years or (O, about ten) about ten years, (about fourteen) about fourteen years ago (yes) But at that time, fourteen years ago, when you and I were going to Bolga at all, how much were we charged for lorry fare? (mm) \$500 (yes). We went by transport (State Transport Corporation) and it was \$500. (yes) Today, today, Bolga is \$6000. It shows that the world is going up (i.e. things are getting expensive). Everything is going up and also, population is increasing (mm) Population is increasing. Also when we are increasing, problems set in. Formerly, people who traded were not many. Only few people. The more we increase, everyone struggles to trade. Now, the bag I am holding, if I were selling<sup>it</sup>, and many people don't come round it, I cannot make it expensive (yes) You see? If you come round, and Akua comes round and this person comes round, I know they will buy and it will be expensive. O.K. it is partly due to our petrol.

prices of

In Ghana here, what makes things go up, is due to petrol (yes). When I first started to go, I paid ₵2500 as a lorry fare. Then petrol price was raised. When it was raised, the lorry fare was raised to ₵3000, and recently it went up again. Now the fare is ₵3500. Therefore I know very well that when the budget is reviewed and an increase is made, the fare may be ₵4000. Now, high prices of goods are mainly due to petrol. When price of petrol goes up, it affects everything because people will board lorry. When you sell goods, you will travel with a lorry; you see? (yes) Because of that eating or everything, cloth and clothes, all have become expensive. All of them are mainly due to petrol. Therefore the increase in petrol has now brought all these problems in Ghana. As a person, you cannot take this and walk for half a mile. And you cannot take this table. By all means you will take them in a car. (Yes) You see? Nowadays, this is how I go to buy yams from Ejura. At first, when we went to buy, the lorry charged ₵2000 for hundred yams. Today, when you go to buy hundred, you pay ₵5000. It has gone up by ₵3000. So if at first, I sold it for ₵200.00 each, now I cannot sell it for ₵200.00 each. I should sell it for about ₵300.00 each. Therefore the difficulty in life is due to the rapid increase in petrol price. Petrol makes everything expensive. Today feeding is expensive.

All ends up with this petrol. Formerly, as a poor person, when you have about \$500.00 at all to go to the market, you can eat with it. Today, the least these children and I spend on food alone is \$800.00, excluding meat. And sister, you will work, but how much will you earn in a day? (mm) How much will you get? Therefore, as for me, what I know is that; All mainly depends on petrol. Petrol has made prices of things too expensive and when the price of petrol is raised, it affects everything. O.K. sometimes it is due to cocoa; cocoa price has gone up. Not all of us have cocoa. When price of cocoa goes up, it makes prices of things also expensive but it is not all of us that have cocoa (yes)

Any time the price of cocoa is raised, means that prices of things have become very expensive.

For cocoa, I do not have any, you don't have any. Maybe, no relative of mine had ever made cocoa farm. But when they raise the price of cocoa, price of all goods become expensive, therefore it affects us. Therefore, as for things and the world <sup>that</sup> have changed, depend on cocoa and petrol; on both. What my mind shows (mm) (Is that so?) If she has anything to ask about it, she can ask, if I can explain. (When you were young, was it difficult like that?) She says what?

(When you were young, was it difficult?)

No, no, no. When I was a child at all, when I was growing up and I bought cloth, I bought it for \$300.00. I bought cloth for \$300.00.

When I had a baby, and the naming ceremony was performed, I was given ₦600.00. That child of mine, has been admitted at Gee (Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital). I shall go and visit her today. I was given ₦600.00. With the ₦600.00, my mother bought three pieces of cloth. The expensive one she bought at all was 400.00. Do you see? But today, if you put on an imported cloth from Europe or U.S.A, if you are buying and you don't have 50 (₦50,000) or 55 (₦55,000), you cannot buy it. (Is that so?) 55,000 or 60,000, you see? Formerly, we were buying such cloth for 500.00. Today, this funeral cloth is ten (10,000); ordinary funeral cloth was cheap but today, it is ten (10,000). Therefore as for former times and these times, they are not related. When I first married, my husband used to give me five shillings (yes). It was five shillings that I used for marketing. Five shillings was enough for my marketing and everything. Later, he brought his nephew to join us because the nephew was going to learn how to repair cars (to be trained as a mechanic). Then he gave me six shillings. It was like that until times changed and he gave me ten shillings; then it went to twelve shillings; this showed that I was very rich. A child looking after senior Magazine people. I was very rich. And sister, and now that I am like this, when I am going (to the market) I can take 3000 or 4000 which is not enough for my marketing. Therefore it shows that everything is going up. As the times go by, everything too is going up.

People are <sup>(also)</sup> multiplying. At first people were not many as it is today. (Why were people not many like today?) O.K., at first, birth; it means that today, more people are being born; also, now, my mother was the only one born, and now she has given birth to seven. Now, I also have ten children, I, myself, have given birth to three and my children have given birth to five. How many is it, when added? Is it not eight. We are increasing. It means that people are getting many. Therefore, as we are increasing, then all things are also going up. You see? And today too, unlike former times, many people did not struggle to come into a big town. Today, any child after finishing school in a village says, "I am going to Kumasi, I am going to Accra. In the past, when he had finished, he would not make <sup>up</sup> his mind that he would go anywhere, and would stay with his mother right there. Today everyone wants to come into a big town to become civilised. Therefore as civilisation increases, so do prices of goods go up. Now civilisation is going up. Civilisation is becoming too much.

pastor

(And, priestess, how is it in your own life?) In my own life, yes, yes, in my own life, sister, it is hard but because of God, the work I am doing now is o.k. My husband is a driver (Ahaa!). When he goes on the road, but recently he stayed at home for about two years; he had no work. (Didn't he have a car?) He didn't have a car. (Is that so?) It meant that I had to <sup>do</sup> everything, so I got tired. When I go and I get some and I come back; little by little by ourselves; therefore if he gets some, one who is employed by somebody is not like

the one who does his own work. Therefore, now, if he goes and comes back with 2000.00 and he gives it to me, then I take it. The day he did not get some too, I hold on to it. (That is, I accept the situation). Therefore, I in particular, you have seen why I do not progress in the work I do; because amount spent on food is big. Now, with me, we are eleven people. As a nursing mother for eleven Kumase people, when I get up in the morning to share money among the little children, and I take ₦1500,00, none will be left. So everyday, I share 1500 among the children before I look for what we will eat in the afternoon; what they will eat in the afternoon, when those who go to school come in the afternoon; besides what we ourselves will eat in the evening. Therefore if I say that I am putting all together, it may mean that one day we may spend about 5000.00. And you look at a common woman, therefore the work also, all right, the work that I do, our work is like lotto. When God helps you and you go and you win; it means I am going to buy this; as I am going the day after tomorrow, I don't know the price for which I am going to buy them. When you arrive there and the farmer says he is selling them for hundred pounds and you can afford, you buy; if you cannot afford, then you come back. When I am going too, I do not know the price I am going to sell them. So when I go and bargain, I may say I will charge 3. (300.00), because over here, I have bought them for 200.00. If I say I will sell them

for 300.00 and they like it and they think that they will buy and it is good for them, then they buy; if it is not good, they will not buy. You see? Therefore it can happen that you go, you may incur a debt. Recently, I went once and my debt was 200,000.00 (Is that so?)

on  
reverse

Recently too, I went to Bolga for one year too, my debt was 400,000.00. (Therefore sometimes the debt exceeds the profit.) But the debt doesn't occur often. If it occurs, it is huge. Therefore sometimes I am in difficulty. Sometimes, it means that all the work I am holding; look at how I use the money. And o.k., as a woman too, I don't have any capital which <sup>is</sup> big that I have. You see? At times, the money can decrease and then working becomes difficult. I become worried and maybe, if you are the one I love, I may come to you, "sister, lend me maybe 50 (50,000) and if you have, you may give it to me. And to Akuli, maybe 100 (100,000) and if she gives to me and I add them together and go for a while and I feel that I can pay back the loan, I do so. Therefore sometimes there are problems in life. Sometimes too, by the grace of God, it may be fine (Nhoo) (And where you go to take things and where you send them, you were saying that you take them here and you take them here.) - (ie You take the things from different places)

Yes, sometimes, there are some at Derna, Akoma clan, Afrancho, Tanoso, Kumawu, Saboronoom, Tuabodom; therefore if I am about to go in the evening, like today, I will go tonight, so

Therefore there are some days there, the profit,  
that is, when the debt comes, it comes ~~bigger~~<sup>so</sup>  
bigger than the profit. It is in this work, the debt  
comes big. The profit can't come big like the debt.  
But also, that means, the debt doesn't always come  
rapidly.



I will go to Anwonaga and stand there; you see? Some go on Sunday, some on Monday, some on Tuesday so when I go and those who have gone and are returning this Sunday, if I see them, then I ask, 'sister, where did you go today?' Maybe, she says, I went to Derma; what was the price when you went? Maybe, she says, this much. And you go and maybe Akua has come. Akua, where did you go? She says, maybe I went to Saboronoom. Maybe, what was the price? She says 9 (9000.00). Therefore I ask several people and see where the price is low, then I go there to buy some. (Will you go there today?) Yes, I will go tomorrow; I will go tonight; I will buy them tomorrow (nhoo) (And those who travel to buy, will they tell the truth) Yes, O, those of us who trade like that, if you meet them, they tell you the truth (Ahaa) She will tell you. When we go to meet, for example at a place where I ~~am~~ standing, we are two standing there. When we are going to buy something, my sister and I, maybe I go to talk about the price and when I am leaving, I leave a message that when my sister comes, she should tell her that I have discussed the price with her already and offered six pence or three pence so there is no need again for my sister to talk about the price with her again. <sup>otherwise</sup> therefore there may be a day when you go round, by the grace of God you may get some profit. At times too, you may not get anything at all, you may incur a debt. Sometimes too, you may make 500. Sometimes too, you may get 1000. If you

There can be a day, too, she goes ahead of me and she goes to bargain, when I come she leaves a message that they should tell Akenaa that I have bargained so when she comes, she shouldn't bargain again.

get 2000, then on that day, God has done much for you. In our trading, the day that you will get 2000, means that the item was scarce. Our profits are usually 1000, ~~and~~ 500, 1000, 500 (On every box?) Yes, 1000, 500, 1000, 500. Therefore, the day that you go and make 2000 profit, means that ~~the~~ item is very, very scarce and God has given <sup>you</sup> grace to make money. (And Takoradi and where else do you sell them?) Aa, o.k. when I start from here and I arrive at Fosu, the people there often buy some (Nho). When I leave Fosu and stop at Cape Coast, (Ahaa) they take some. When they have finished taking some at Cape Coast, there is also a town called Bepong on the way. There also, I stop and they take some. When they take some at Bepong, it gets finished just after Bepong. If it doesn't get finished at Bepong, we continue to Efiakuma. At Efiakuma, they take some, then I arrive at Ntwabian and they take some and then to Takoradi to finish it. Sometimes, when I sell them on the way like that, I do not arrive at Takoradi at all, then I turn back (Nho). Therefore, on a day that the marketing is good, I may not go far at all to finish it. Therefore wherever I reach to sell all, then I have to <sup>in the night</sup> turn back. And how we do it, means that, when we go, they do not pay us; (Nho) what I went with it a week tomorrow, that is Monday. So what I am going to buy to go again, has to be bought tomorrow, Monday and I will arrive there on Tuesday morning. So what I took along last week on Tuesday, when I go, I will collect the

money and money for this one will remain there (nhoo). So every time, we do weekly marketing. When you go, you will not get a person who will buy and give you money immediately; every time you have to go with new ones and collect money for the old ones every week. Therefore you need money for the work every time (nhoo). You must have money to do it. If you don't have money, you will be in difficulty every time. For the farmers do not sell to us on credit. As for the farmer, if it remains 100 and he says he will not let you take it, he will not and he will take back his goods (hoo). As for us, we give them on credit for a week before we collect our money (mm). (So, you say, you give them on credit for a week, if the day you go and the items are scarce, do you take money at once?) They are your customers. That is how you do business with them so she should take it like that, but if somebody they don't know is passing, they will use your money to buy. There may be somebody who may tell you right in your face that if you have no goods for me, then I am going to use your money to find some to buy. She will not give it to you; that is what the Fantis do. When you go and you don't have some for her, she will tell you that, if I give you the money, I won't have some to buy, so I am going to find some to buy with it (nhoo). It means that she is a customer we trade with. So anytime — (And how did you find the customer?) (How did you get to know the customer?) O.K. This is how it came about. At first you

and I were selling them here, I was not going there. (nhoo) But later in this market, people were not buying much (nhoo) Maybe as I say my problem is like, when I go, one box (of tomatoes) will not finish. If one box finishes, I will not get even 1000, so as I stay here like this, it was going to bring disgrace (nhoo) A friend of mine used to go there so I discussed with her to take me along. And she said, O, I will go with you ~~I said it everyday but she did not take me along~~ Each day I say, she says, I will go with you. I say it everyday, but she doesn't go with me; then one day, I said, I will go myself. And I bought some and put them in a train. So I put them in a train and during conversation with someone in the train, I told her that I was going to Takoradi but I did not know there. Then she said O, when we arrive, I will show you. When we arrived, both of us took a car and went to town. So when we went, she took me to a woman saying, 'please, these goods are for my friend; sell them for her.' (nhoo) And the woman sold the goods for me. She sold them for me and because I was a stranger, she collected the money for me the same day. I spent three days. She told me to spend three days. Within three days, she collected the money for me. After collecting the money, she asked me when I was bringing ~~some~~ again. Then I asked her that when should I bring some? And she also gave me a day that, 'bring it on such a day'. So at first, I was going by train. When I bought them, I was not taking a lorry, I was taking the train,

but the train often broke down. (Nhoo) Tomatoes too, get spoiled after a day. It is hot also in the train. Therefore, when we put them in, they may get spoiled on the way (nhoo). It cannot go. Therefore I thought carefully and I said, if it is like that, I will stop and also at that time I had got some money to be able to take a car. Now I have an Urvan. I go with an Urvan; everyday Urvan. (nhoo). Then little by little, I went; so I stopped taking the train and used the road. So if tomatoes become scarce and you are going, somebody will follow you. She may say, give me some to buy. You discuss the price with her, then she buys it. When she buys, you then ask her, what day will you buy some when I reach here? You ask that to look for a customer. And you ask, what day? And she too may ask, and what day are you coming? I for an example, I go on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I buy them on Mondays and distribute them on - (Tuesdays) and buy them Thursdays and distribute them on Fridays. And I may tell you, maybe I will come on Thursday. So when she says that, on the day you will reach here, she will be there (nhoo) O, maybe when I come to distribute on two occasions and someone has none, she may ask the other person where she gets her supply. Then she says, a sister with some passes over here, and she too, comes to join. (nhoo) Do you see? And others also ask, "Where is it that you get goods to buy?" And someone also says, a certain sister brings them and we

(nhoo) Hwe, ebye na ebi koraa a wogyina  
na woomo atumi ayi ne nyinaa. Saa na  
ema yanya customers. Kyere se, woreko a,  
eho ye den a, na woomo gyina kwan mu  
repe bi ato. Enti wogyina woomo gyina wo  
na wo ne woomo to ara na nipa nso chwe  
se ebia wo kasa ne ~~se~~ wo suban, sedes  
wosi tes no, na woye ma nriipa no a,  
kyere se woomo aka wo ho. Enti time  
biara, emee se woomae, ~~se~~ kaa no mmaa  
koraa a, na woomo gyina ho return wo,  
kopem bere a — Nnansa yi sei, me kaa  
see ara maa no boo nnonmienu ~~se~~ aso  
na woomo rebisa kaa a ereba no se mohuu  
Ante Abenaa kaa? Woomo se, mehunuu  
se kaa no asse. Woomo tenaee ara. Mekes  
na woomo da so te ho na woomo return  
me, se yeate se mekkar asse. Enti me  
kaa asse, yents obi des. Se yeto obi des  
a, meba a, merennya obi mma no ato  
Enti woomo tenaee kopem 2.00 no a,  
mekes a woomo yigie. (Na se woduru  
Takoradi na wo ntosi asa na woadane  
wo ho, wo customers wo ho, <sup>(ne)</sup> bo befu anaa)  
Ewo se wo try se wobema obiara anya  
bie. Se nipa koroo annya bi des a, ewo se  
woka asem a eye de kyere, woka  
biribi kyere no. Se woaaku? (Nhoo)  
Nnaano sei mekes yi, ebi annya bi. Woomo  
a yeamma ntem, maka kyereee wan se,  
mekes wiramu, mannya nnesma anto na

129



buy some; so before you are aware, the number has gone up. (who) Look, maybe when you stop, they can buy all you have. In this way, we get customers. When you are going and the items are scarce, they stand by the road side looking for some to buy. Therefore when <sup>they</sup> stop you and you do business with them, they watch how you speak and your nature, how you are and you are good to the people, then they stay with you. So at any time that you have not come, when the car hasn't come at all, they will keep standing waiting for you until the time which            (you may come) Recently, my car broke down until two o'clock. They kept asking on coming cars; did you see Ante Abenaa's car? They say, I saw that the car has broken down. They kept waiting. When I went, they were still there waiting for me that they had heard that my car had broken down. Because my car has broken down, they will not buy from anybody. If they buy from somebody, when I come, I will not get anybody to buy mine. So they sat till 2:00 p.m when I went and they picked them. (And when you arrive at Takoradi and your tomatoes are finished and you turn back, will your customers there be angry?) You have to try to let everyone have something. If somebody fails to get some, then you have to say something to please her; you have to say something. Do you see? (who). Recently, when I went, some did not get any. Those who didn't come early. I told them that, when I went to the bush, I did not get goods to buy



and my goods were very few, so I pleaded with them to exercise patience, for on Tuesday everyone will have some. So if you say pleasant story to a person, you make her calm. If you see that it is not much, you may say to two people; you may take this one and share it. If there are three people, you may plead with them to have understanding that today, I did not get enough goods, so three of you may take one and share it bit by bit and when I come on Tuesday or Friday everyone will get some. When you talk with them like that, they get understanding (rho) and they share it. Therefore trading with them needs pampering and patience. If you are patient, you can trade with them every time. They take our money very much. At the moment, if I check, my money, they have taking may exceed 300,000 (laughter) (And if you go and they don't pay you for last week, do you give them this one too?) Among those who buy, some people also take some from them to a village. Maybe, the amount may not be complete. She will tell the truth. There may be someone who respects herself and you know that as for her, she is not like that. So she may say, Ante Abenaa, I beg you, what was collected from me, they have not brought the money, so I cannot add it for you, so go and come and on Thursday when you come I will pay you. Someone like that, when you come, she will give it to you. There may be someone who has made up her mind that as for her, she is dishonest, when she comes to take it, maybe you will not

see her again (nhoo) Do you see? And these people too, what you should know about them is that they themselves do not have money to do business. Therefore anything they buy, they buy on credit. So if you do business with a Fanti and her child gets sick, you have to know that if you have money with her, then you have lost it. When her husband is sick, your money is lost. Anything that will happen to her, means that she will not give your money aside and face problem. Therefore when you go, what she will say is, this person bought some but if I didn't have your money —, so I have taken it; when the month ends —, then for a month, sometimes, maybe a year, she may not pay it to you. And as I am saying, the amount with them exceeds 300 (300,000.00) And now, the amount I am holding is very small. All the money is with the debtors. Recently, an elderly woman I am working with has a beautiful young daughter who is sick. And she has bought some tomatoes; she too, because she works with her children, when I go, they can take five; four, five, four (boxes). When she takes them, and I go after four days, she will take some again. So when she took them away and her child got sick, now 50,000, she used it to treat her child but the child died. So, now, it has become a problem even to ask for the money. So only recently did I tell her that, 'my mother, what about the money' and she said that she herself knows

about it so I should have patience, she will give it to me, and she came to my house. Do you see? (So tomorrow, if she doesn't give, will she come to buy —) She will buy, and these people their nature is that if you do business with them, and one incurs a debt and you don't supply her again, she will not pay you because she has no capital. There if it becomes a debt, you have to supply her some to sell to repay the debt. (She sells and pays the debt.) And she with it repays the debt; yes. Therefore, even if she owes you, you have to give her some to buy. There may be someone who has good intentions and she thinks about it that she owes, so whatever she gets, she will bring it. Also, there may be someone who has made up her mind that as for her, nothing bothers her. Then, if you give her this one and you see that it is of no use, you have to stop. You have to collect your money; when you don't get it, don't add any to it and forget about it. Somebody too, can come and buy and you will not see her again at all (nhoo) (And a new customer like that, can you give it to her without any surety?) Yes, a new customer means that when she comes as new, then she becomes old, so you will find that she follows someone and she comes with her. I came with this sister so if you don't respect me, ask this sister." Do you see? Then this sister will even worry about it like that;

when she sees her, she runs away. That is theirs. (nhoo) As for Fantis trading, it is with patience. If you have no patience, you cannot do business with them. (Is that so?) Yes, (And in, ~~ira~~, you do business, who is, has plenty of money) You will speak the Twi to let me understand. (The business that you do, who, you and them, who gets more profit?) O.K., sometimes their profit is more than ours because she retails. So, sometimes when she buys and takes it to the market, there may be none at all. Do you see? (yes) Recently, I bought some goods here. When I bought them, I sold them to them for 7000.00 One told me really that the goods she bought for 7000.00, when she retailed it, it came to 16000. (mmm) It means that when she took it away, there was none in the market (mmm) (nhoo) so that is theirs. So when she goes and she remembers \_\_\_\_\_ . She told me that Ante Abenaa. When I went, she had gone to buy something with it. She says, Ante, as for you, you are my mother and because of how I treat her, she will not call me. my nursing mother. That is how the Fantis are. She says, my nursing mother. If I tell you my story, as I live, I got 16 (16000) for the goods. So I am going to buy cloth with it in memory of you. (hooo). When she went, there was none in the market, so at times they make more profit than us who ride

in cars. Sometimes too, when you go, you may not have it and also when she comes to retail, she may not get what she paid for it and she may lose and you too, you may get your 1000 (nhoo). But if you look into it, they often get more than those of us riding in cars. If by the grace of God, she goes and if there is none there and marketing comes on, — Somebody too, as soon as she buys it, she transfers it to someone with profit on it; someone can buy and if somebody else didn't get some, she may say, give it to me for 1000.00 profit and she may do so. (And when you sold things in Kumasi, were they doing that?) Yes, it is all over Kumasi here. Here in Kumasi, there are people who rush to hold goods in lorries bringing them to indicate that they are going to buy such goods. (They are the people referred to as masom-masomfo). Maybe one could not get up early but somebody was able to get up and had cold bath very early. When the early person goes to buy the items and the one who goes late wants some, the early person may say add 1000 or 2000. to it and take it. If you want it you will add to it, and take it. It is done all over Kumasi. (Do you have rules among you in the market here that this is for such and such a person; this is for this person; here is that person's.) It is true, <sup>we</sup> select some for them. (And explain it to us) Tomatoes for example, when you go with it, we select some for the

the queen. (Which queen? The market queen  
 or the Asantehemma (queen of Ashanti)?) We select  
 some for the queen of Ashanti. We select some for  
 the market queen. As for the Asantehemma, they  
 often select some for her on Akwasidae (Sunday festival).  
 On the Saturday before the Akwasidae so this is  
 not done everyday. Take it that Akwasidae  
 may occur ~~once in a month~~ or 40 days (Yes)  
 (I don't know) Akwasidae, it seems to me it  
 occurs once in 40 days. Therefore it is in  
 the period of 40 days that they select one for  
 the Asantehemma. It means that the market  
 queen, every item in the market has a queen,  
 Plantain has its queen (That for Asantehemma,  
 do they select from everyone and how do  
 they do it or when she comes —) What  
 I am saying is about Asantehemma's thing. Every  
 item has its queen so the queen, pepper queen  
 selects a few pepper, and garden eggs queen  
 selects garden eggs (yes) and plantain queen also  
 selects here so it means they know everyone  
 Every queen selects her item to go and serve  
 (Yes, you said onion queen must —  
 (onion queen) yes, she should select onions  
 to go —) Yes, when Akwasidae is drawing  
 near but they don't select them everyday.  
 The day before Akwasidae, Saturday that the  
 queen goes to the palace with the goods (two)  
 They select theirs everyday. And our queens,  
 tomatoes, pepper and garden eggs, we have one  
 queen (who) and plantain has its queen,  
 cassava has its queen. Therefore when tomatoes  
 come, if I bring one box, they will pick two from

28

it for the queen, (nhoo) the Gao person who will carry it to the market, we <sup>don't</sup> give them money; he/she will pick some <sup>revenue</sup>, that is how the picking goes (nhoo) (And at Takoradi too, is it the same?) Yes, at Takoradi, they pick, but at Takoradi, it is not much as it is done here (Is that so?) As for Takoradi, the one who will be writing picks two, (nhoo) and the one who is taking it <sup>out</sup> of the car, also picks two; there is also someone who after sales, will carry the boxes into the car, and he too picks two. That is all they take from it (nhoo) (As for the queen, she doesn't take any?) No. The queen, you pick some for the queen, (nhoo) you pick some for the queen. But that, we don't pick much as it is <sup>one</sup> Kumasi. As <sup>for</sup> here, they pick a lot (right) Over here, for one box, they will pick five or six. As for there too, they pick two, two, two, two (nhoo). So as for Takoradi, they don't <sup>PICK</sup> much as here (nhoo) (So your work, which is taking you to-and-fro like that, do you pay income tax or any licence fee or something like that? Yes, they charge us tax. When we go all the way to Bolga, we pay tax (nhoo) and can ticket, etc, etc (nhoo) we pay (And, e, e, yesterday) Our boxes, for example, there are places, in a bush somewhere here, when you go, you pay 100.00 for one box and some place they charge 200.00 (nhoo) (And yesterday, and yesterday did you work in Kumasi, did you sell at the market, where did you sell tomatoes, in villages, e, Kumasi?)

At the market. (And now, which work is more difficult?) O.K., as for the one in Kumasi, at first I was not riding in a car; I was sitting at one place (Is that so?) Yes, at first, I only came from Kurotoporom to the market; I was not going to any place (Is that so?) Were you a young woman? Well? You say, yes, I was a young woman; I did not have a baby. I did it before I had all my children (right) It was my mother's sister who was doing it (right) and I worked with her; I was not old enough; I stayed in it, so when I did the work, I was a young woman (who) (When you were a young woman, what work did you do? It was the same work. (Were you travelling or not? No. I was young so when someone brought some, I also bought some and retailed (aha) I was not travelling; like what I was doing when you came to meet me at the market. I was not travelling except Bolga where I used to go. As for Bolga, I went at the end of each year. When I return, I don't go anywhere again besides Bolga (who). Even that, the Bolga affair, it was for my mother's sister (who) and when she became old, she could not go and she gave it to me so I went to buy at the end of every year. Therefore after that I went nowhere again. (You were not going to Kumasi as now?) At first I was not going, but now I go (who) When you came here at first, I was not going (yes) but now I go everywhere. Even



tomorrow, maybe I may go to Kumawa.  
 (And please, what made you decide to go to Bolga?) Because when you are a child, you follow your mother. What made you think that — (I will go to Bolga) I will go to Bolga?  
 The Bolga business was for my mother (Was it for your mother?) Yes, it was my mother who was going and later, she became old and could not go again, (ahaa) and she gave it to me that I should go (haa, you) So when I also go and become old, I will give it to my children (ahaa) that they should go (all right)  
 (When you were a little child, you stayed at the market here and your mother went on the road, isn't it? Yes, I was at the market and my mother also went on the road (nhoo)  
 (So when you were a child and stayed at the market and because your mother traded in tomatoes, you did like tomatoes. You didn't like anything in addition?)  
 No. I didn't retail anything in addition because even these children, when they finished school, she did not let anyone do any work; now, I have regretted but it is past (nhoo) Because that time was not like this time (Is that so?) You see, that time, the world was easy, therefore when you go and you get even 500.00, then you have got money  
 Therefore, even me, at certain time, I went on the road to Nigeria. But when I went for some time and observed how accidents were happening on the roads, I said to myself, I will come back and do this very work, because when I go, I will get what I will eat and that made me stop. (So the tomatoes didn't let you

send your children to secondary school) No. As for my children, they were not clever. None of them was clever, so when everyone leaves school, she/he says, as for me, I will not continue (nhoo) (And when you began to sell tomatoes, what would have let you, it will let your work progress?) Explain to me. (When you began to sell tomatoes, what good work was there in addition to the tomatoes, that would have let you get little more money than the tomatoes?) All right, as for that, I didn't think of any work in addition to that. That was the only thing which was in my mind (nhoo). Therefore I didn't think of any other work. The work that I decided to do is that, when going to Nigeria became popular, I made my mind to go there too (nhoo) But when I went for about six months and how accidents were happening, you know that at that time, they didn't know how to drive, (hae) and how accidents were happening, I said, no, I don't know what I would get, if I don't die, so I will stop and do my old work, so I didn't set my eyes on any work. That (the tomatoes) was the main work. (And it seems to you that the tomato business makes more money than all?) That is what my strength can do. As for that, whatever happens, I can do it. It is not a business my money can do. As I am sitting there now, if I can, I will stop, but I will not have a large amount to go on the road. Do you see? Now I feel that when I

stop this and do a new work, it will do well for me. This which I am doing, ~~very~~ I cannot use it to make any property, <sup>or reverse</sup> when I look at it. If I have an amount which is a bit large, I too would have stopped and go on the road as people are going; I would go, but I cannot afford, I don't have strength for it that is why I am in ~~the~~ like that. (And is there anyone with whom you started and has been able to make property?) Is there anybody who began with me? (Is there anyone with whom you began the tomato business who has been able to make property now or all of you are the same?) O.K., my younger sister for example, I started before her, now she has put up a house; I have not been able, hoo! (She did it with the tomato work?) As for this, I don't know; if she does an extra work, I cannot tell. As for the tomatoes, I don't know, those of us who do it, I have not seen any of us who have done anything, not even our seniors. It is not money that comes in bulk. I said that the debt is more than the profit. Therefore it is not money that comes in bulk that if you don't have, <sup>an</sup> extra work, you will be able to do anything with it (nhoo) so it is like a nursing mother's work; everyday you get something to buy food to eat, (nhoo) that is the nature of the work. It is not a business that the money comes in bulk; maybe, I may go one time; I will have 200 (200,000) (nhoo) and you save it, or I will have 100 (100,000)

(nhoo) and you save it. It doesn't come like that [So, as you were saying, maybe, if your husband's work was good, (right) and you were not paying for food, (then it would be all right) that too would be good] Yes; If the man were working and then, a woman, you get even ten pounds, and you don't take off anything, you can save it to get a large amount. Maybe, for a week, he might not have anything to go. It means that for a week, if everyday you spend 3000.00, how much is that at all for a week. It may be that when I go on the road, I may not get the profit we are spending at all. It means that the capital you are holding — (is what you are spending) — Therefore every time, the amount cannot increase. When it starts to go up, it comes down again (Is that so?) It means that I use it (nhoo)

(And if you get money, what would you use to do in your business?) (Maybe, if you were to get money in the work, what could you do with it?) All right, as for now, what I have in my mind nowadays really, if I get money, I would like to have a plot. (Is that so?) Yes. And the second thing, I would like one of the children to travel abroad, because if you say that you will stay here, where we live today, you will just stay here and rather get tired; right now, what really is in my heart is that. Now, if I were to get a small amount, I would let one of the children

travel abroad; maybe, when he/she returns, an old woman, I may get somewhere to put my head. Now, it is really my wish; I pray that the Lord may grant me grace to get hold of small amount and let one of the children leave. I have been in this work for too long, I have seen that at this stage, it cannot take me to anywhere (whee) If I get a little and if some of the children travel, maybe grace will come (whee). The man I introduce you to him recently has been telling me, 'everyday Auntie, send me abroad', but I don't have money. He says it, you see, as for a child, he knows that I work everyday so I have money and I am not being helpful to him. Everyday, when he talks with me, that is what he says, 'Auntie, send me abroad. I tell him that I don't have money; he says, 'you are lying'. I tell ~~him~~ that I don't have money. If I had money, I too have the wish that my child would go and come back to put up a building for an old woman, your mother to live in it. I would like it, but the money is not there

(So now, what is your ~~child~~ doing?) My child, the male? He is a shoemaker. He is learning how to make shoes. (Is he learning how to make shoes?) Yes (And the girls, you said that they were not clever so you didn't send them to a secondary school?)

They didn't like it. For, when everyone finishes, she says, 'As for me, I will not go. I will come to the market.' They were not clever at school.

Girls! (Why didn't you let some learn sewing or hair dressing?) O! at that time, my sister, the idea didn't occur to me. And that is what I am saying now; it is too late; at that time, the idea didn't occur to me (nhoo) When everyone finishes, she says, I will come to the market, then I put her at the market. So later, when the idea came, all of them had babies, how then are they going to learn some work? This little one has three children; the senior one has two. The idea didn't come at first. So all of them did like the market and all of us were at the market. Do you see? Because as for people, we become wise year after year. It may also be that by the time you become wise, your thing has already spoiled completely. Because of that, now when I myself sit down and think about it, I become sorry that I didn't let some of the children learn any profession. All of us went into one business only (nhoo) Now, their children who are after us, if I am not dead, none of them will do some of our work. That is how I have made up my mind. If I am not dead, but I have told them that even when I die, nobody should let her child continue the work. Everyone should let her child look for a new work, either sewing or hair dressing or any other job; they should let the children learn handiwork. As for handiwork, it is good. (You don't like them to follow you?) Yes, all of us won't take one job like that. That work,

when you do it, you never progress. You are always at where you are (ahaa) Yes.

(Your sisters, do they all have one work? All of them go to sell tomatoes?) My sister? (Yes, your sister)

Yes, she is my mother's sister; she sells tomatoes; she is there. (Is that so?) And as for my own sister, the women are two; one and her husband are in Mampong; as for her, she is a seamstress. The men too are at Tema. The men are four (nhoo) None of them is here (Are you the only one selling tomatoes (mm) like your mother?) (And when you began to sell tomatoes, what change have you seen in the work?) In the work? (Yes) As for a change, the work doesn't change. I haven't seen any change in it. It means, I don't see in it this thing, for the money, when you get, you spend it. Do you see that, my sister, that when you work and you get something to acquire property, then you realise that the work you did was profitable. (ahaa). This work, you only do to get something to buy cloth and food. It means that I don't get any important thing from it which I can mention to say that when I did this work, my house or my car is my property I got from it. There is nothing like that, except this one refrigerator. It is for a room decoration; we don't consider it as something of value. (Yes, but she means that what changes have come in the former and the present day work?) In the past, as I was saying,

the world was not hard, so when you get  
 500 at all it was enough for everything (hoo)  
 and today the world is going up (And formerly,  
 would you quickly get 500?) As for our  
 work, its profit is not stable (ahaa). Those  
 of us who retail at the market, if by the  
 grace of God, you go and buy and send it  
 to the market and there is none there, then  
 you are lucky, you will get profit. It can  
 happen that you will buy and send it to the  
 market in the morning; in the afternoon,  
 more will come and you run into debt. Do you  
 see? Maybe when you buy and go to the market  
 in the morning, there may be none again and  
 it means that those of you who went with some  
 have been lucky to retail them to earn more  
 money (nhoo). We too, our profits are not big  
 so you cannot use it to make something big  
 (which is big) Yes, So tomato sellers are not people  
 who put up houses (right) Those of us who sell  
 tomatoes are not people who build houses. Someone  
 who sells tomatoes and can build a house, may  
 have an additional work to push her, but for  
 tomatoes alone, no because the profits are not  
 big (right) It is not a thing with which we  
 can acquire any property. Maybe someone has sold  
 tomatoes to build a house, maybe her husband  
 helped her or her child in Europe or America  
 has built it. One friend of mine, Agyeiwea, we  
 were selling with her and her brother went to  
 Europe or America and he came to take her  
 daughter away (nhoo) Now her daughter has  
 finished building her house. She is about to move



into it. She has come to take away her younger sister. Her child has helped her; With the work alone, she could not have done it (hoo) That is it.

[Is that the reason why you also want your child to travel?] Yes, sister, as for today, in Ghana, if your child doesn't travel, and stays here, if I look at the work I am doing, and God doesn't help me for these children to travel, I shall live in one room with my children; we are already full. We are over crowded already (hoo) Do you see? Only one room it is that I and my — my children are not there but for their children, all of them live with me so we are hard pressed. So if the Lord gives you grace and somebody gives you one bedroom, you would be comfortable. As for that, it is my wish really that the Lord may give me something to let me send one of the children to go for all the children know the situation in which we are before travelling. All of them know. If the Lord helps and she goes, and I know that when she goes, she too will think a little about home, (hoo) because how we are living is before them. (So, now, have you got some money which you can give to someone, if she/he were to go?) O.K. I haven't got it, but I am on it. Now, the money I have is very small, so I pray that the Lord may help me to get some to add to it. I have got a bit (I know) and have saved it, so I am praying about it that the Lord may help

~~help~~ me to have a little to add to it. If someone helps me to take him/her away for me it will be fine. (And now, where is your husband? If he were working, he could have helped him/her a bit.) He is still driving. As for the car, when you drive, you earn 1000.00 a day for food and the 1000.00, sister, look at the 1000.00 he is given for food; how much does he use to buy food and how much will he bring home? And all the monthly pay is 15 (15,000.00). Ghanaian drivers' pay is not good. (15,000?) 15,000.00. And the 15,000.00 that he earns, what is he going to buy with? Therefore, as for him, there is no hope that he will come with anything. (He too, his brothers/sisters can help him) These days, as for these days, will your brother/sister send your child to Europe or America? On the male side. Not even a woman for you to say that she is going to come back into the family (rhoo). His two brothers went and they have never written to him. (Some of his brothers are in Europe or America?) Yes; but even writing, they have not written to him. Then they would have said that they would buy him a secondhand car for him to drive (rhoo) Since they went, not even a letter has come. How can he say that he is coming to help to take your child away for you (No) So in as for the help, if it will come, it will be from myself and perhaps the Lord gives me help and I get a little. Recently, I saved

some money and had 900 (900,000) And there was a man who said that I should find 1.5 (1.5 million) for him to take him away (nhoo). It was during that time that I wanted to go to Bolga when I incurred a debt of 100,000 (nhoo) and when I came back, I incurred a debt again. I lost the money again (nhoo) Do you see? Now, I have got 500,000 so I have kept it somewhere. So I pray that the Lord should not let Satane destroy it again. So I am saving until the Lord helps me to get a little that somebody may have mercy on me to let it grow. Do you see? And I was saying that, as for there, it is my desire strongly that I pray to the Lord to help me to let one of the children go. Whether the women or the men, any will do (nhoo) (And right now, you pray that you will get chance to take one of your children to Europe or America) Yes. (When you were young, and you were pregnant, what did you think you would like to do?) I have said, I wanted a house, I wanted somewhere to put my head; I want a ~~house~~, I want to have a house, to stay in it. When you came, you have seen that my room is full of many children; only one room; we are too many. (Yes, so when you were a young woman, did you want to put up a building? Yes. (mm)) I want a house, but I cannot build so when the child goes there, maybe when he/she gets little to come, we can build to get a place to sleep. You have seen that in one room, there are about

ten people; (yes) we are too many (yes, people —) We see to it the chairs are packed before we sleep. (Right) (If the work cannot help —) The work too cannot help (Who) (If, when, at that time what helped you in your work?) I haven't understood the question yet. You will be able to explain it well. Yes, go on, I am listening. (In the beginning, what is it that really helped you?)

(She says, when you were young, what helped you in your work? Did it push your work up?) (Have you understood it? (When you were a young woman, what helped you that the work was able to progress that today you can make it a bit bigger?) Right, I was explaining that my mother was doing it and I followed her bit by bit and when I grew up I separated from her (You went on your own?) Yes. (Right) She even said that I was old enough so it was good not to work for her again. I should do it for myself to make a living (Who) And I started and I went through little by little up to today (Who) (Then, at that time, your mother allowed you to be on your own, you were not paying money for food? I had a baby. (You had a baby?) Yes. (Right) I had a baby - (Was the man still marrying you?) Yes. (At that time you could have done something a bit. Things were not expensive, And sister, at that time, you know that money was hard to come by. At that time to have 200 with you was a heavy amount

Today, I have seen that, now, matters concerning money is difficult but today people work to earn money more quickly than at first when the world was not difficult (nhoo). When the world was not difficult at first, it was hard to get money and now matters about money is difficult but people work to get money more quickly than formerly. At that time too, people were not civilised. You see that as a person, when you are growing, you become wiser and you see good things. At that time, I was not wiser like today. I was not well civilised (what has brought about the change? That what has changed? (That the world has changed, all things have changed) As for the change, that was what I said now, people are becoming too many; everybody is also working. (nhoo) People are becoming many; everyone is working. Formerly, tomato sellers knew their number; we did know our number so when the queen asked tomato sellers to meet, all of us, just a few number, then we would meet. The queen knew every tomato seller. Today too, somebody may sell tomatoes that the queen doesn't know her at all (nhoo) (Maybe, previously tomato sellers were twenty.) Yes, we knew our number. You know that when the queen invites you, you are — ) Twenty are coming. (Now — ) Today too, there may be someone selling tomatoes whom the queen doesn't know her personally; she too, doesn't know the queen. It means that

today, people are increasing in number so when anyone takes her thing, she starts trading and you cannot tell someone to stop trading in her life in the world in which we are. Therefore now it means that we are increasing (nhoo) we are getting many, do you see? At first, tomato section was at a place called 'Inside Roofing Sheet'. Our shed had been roofed with iron sheets, so it was only there tomato sellers were; very few of them. As for you, as you are in Kumasi, I am showing you, from bush meat section to plantain section, do you see a small section there lined up by tomato sellers? (Yes) Today, look at where tomato sellers have stretched to. A small area there was the tomato section that was in Kumasi market. Do you see? Today, look at it; tomatoes are found everywhere (nhoo) So, you see what I mean, therefore these days, we are increasing in number (Like Kejetia today) Right; the refuse dump side; railway station; place known as 'Bode'; here & there (Everywhere, road side). Formerly, from Bush meat section to plantain section, a small place was where we were with onion sellers. (Yes) As for you, you are a citizen of Kumasi, you know. Only there were tomato sellers. So the queen knew me, so when we were children, we came to sleep at the gate to get goods to buy. When a lorry was coming, we rushed into it to get hold of the things in it. When this comes you say, I want the first one, this one says I want the next one, this one says, I want

what follows. When our mothers came in the morning, they came to pick them and shared them (mm) Today, it is ~~not~~ there like that. (And also, the markets are many) The markets are many (Kwadaso has a market) Kurofoporom has a market, Tafo has a market, this place has a market, that place has a market so when you go there at all, our place for instance, there may be someone who doesn't go to the market but does her/his shopping right there. At our small place that you came, (mm) there is beef, all types of fish, any type that one likes can be found there; so there may be someone who for some days now has ~~not~~ been to the market. It is right there that she/he does her/his shopping (nhoo).

Yes, it means that, today, everyone is a trader. At first too, someone from Tafo, knows that she buys tomatoes from me, so when she/he gets down from a car from Tafo, she/he will not pass anywhere, but straight to me to buy it. Maybe someone from Asuyeboa, knows that she/he buys tomatoes from me, so she/he will not pass anywhere, Today, when she/he gets down from a car, there will be some right by the car, so she/he will not walk through rubbish to come there to buy. (hoo) (Now I understand) Now you understand. And what is ~~not~~ left that you want to tell me to understand? ) What is she saying? (What is left that she should tell me so that I could understand? )

(Now, what is left again that is good that you can say for us to hear and for her to understand well.

Maybe there is still something left in your own life and you may say it) No. What is in my life is that my child should go to Europe or America; is that not all? (Laughter) Tell her that when she is going, she may go with one of my children. That is all. On the other hand, she may go with me, myself, to go and look after babies. (And as for you, will that be possible?) (Laughter) Now, tell her that I say now that I myself, need help in my life.

I need a helper, if you will help me; that is all my problem, do you see? Tell her.

(She said she needs someone to help her. So if you are ready to help her. (Laughter))  
(All right) mm.

(There is God) mm, sister. (Times are hard) It has become difficult. (It has become difficult in Ghana) Sister, it is difficult. So as for me, all the time, I know that what God has planned is the truth. Therefore if the Lord says that the children should find somewhere to put me before I die, then for me, that is my aim everyday; I will get it. If that is not so, the child may ~~even~~ go there, but will not be able to come back to do anything. So everyday, I pray that the Lord may direct me as the aim with which he is keeping me.

The landlord of the house next to ours has a child in Japan (mm) When he went, he came to take his senior brother along. When he arrived, his brother didn't go to meet him at the expected time, so he was ~~returned~~ back to Ghana. When the brother came back, he was very



angry. It was his younger brother who was there and he came to take the senior brother who was returned. The younger one forced again and came to take the senior one away. When he went, he died after three months exactly (Ou!) (Ou!) When he arrived in Japan, this young man died exactly after three months. Do you see? Everyday, I tell the Lord that Lord, what is good for me, may it be done. If ~~it is proper~~ that some of the children may go, he himself may glorify himself. If they go too and it will not be a thing that ~~it~~ will bring him glory, then everything is in his hands. Therefore, now, I put everything before God. Anything that I do, I leave it to him as he himself wishes may it be. As for me, I am human. I have said it with my mind. If it will not be good, he knows everything (If you have finished saying all, let us drink small fanta) O.K., I have heard that.